

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR KARA HAHN



FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2014

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IT'S WHAT'S NEXT IN PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY

Suffolk Legislature adopts bill to study Next Generation 911 implementation

RIVERHEAD, NY – The Suffolk Legislature last evening adopted a resolution to study the feasibility of utilizing Next Generation 911 (NG-911) Technology. Introductory Resolution 1582-2014, sponsored by Legislator Kara Hahn (D-Setauket), will give the Suffolk County Police Department's Division of Information Technology 120 days to analyze the costs and benefits associated with upgrading the current 911 system to NG-911, which allows for callers to transmit text, images, video and data to operators in real-time, without needing to disconnect the call. Data-based information provided by callers can be beneficial to responding officers searching for a suspect or in assessing an active crime scene.

"During an emergency situation, there is no greater resource for first responders than real-time information," said Legislator Hahn who is a member of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee. "Next Generation 911 has been proven effective in saving lives and officers in finding missing persons and suspects in jurisdictions that have already implemented this type of advanced system. I look forward to the Department's analysis of its use here in Suffolk County."

[More]

Next Generation 911 has been in development since the late 1990's and has evolved as the technology has advanced. Currently, counties in Illinois, North Carolina and Utah employ NG-911 systems, with Vermont putting in place the initial components of a statewide network back in 1998.

Late last week, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the measure. Now, the adopted resolution goes to County Executive Steve Bellone for his signature.

"Today, officers and first responders arrive on scene with only the most basic knowledge of the unfolding medical or criminal incident," Legislator Hahn concluded. "I expect that by having sets of eyes and ears in on a potentially chaotic crisis situation, the outcomes will be greatly improved."

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